

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:PGSMITH:CJ
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT MP US

SUBJECT: REVISION OF BACKGROUND NOTES

REF: BROWN/SMITH LETTER, 12/17/76

1. APPRECIATE YOUR TIMELY AND THOROUGH UPDATING OF THE NOTES.

2. NEED YOUR HELP IN CLEARING UP THREE POINTS: A) YOUR REVISED PROFILE GIVES LITERACY RATE OF 61 PERCENT, VICE 80 PERCENT IN LAST EDITION. WAS OLD FIGURE ERRONEOUS, OR HAS COUNTING METHOD CHANGED, OR WHAT?

B) IN SECTION "GEOGRAPHY AND PEOPLE", YOUR DRAFT STATES THAT BIRTH RATE "IS STILL EXPECTED TO INCREASE SLIGHTLY IN COMING YEARS". THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO TRACK WITH TREND INDICATED BY LIFE EXPECTANCY AND POPULATION GROWTH RATE FIGURES IN REVISED PROFILE, UNLESS YOU EXPECT THAT TREND TO BE REVERSED IN NEAR FUTURE.

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C) CAN YOU CONFIRM ACCURACY OF CERTAIN FIGURES THAT STRIKE US AS SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED, FOR EXAMPLE LIFE EXPECTANCY (UP 7 YEARS), LAND UNDER CULTIVATION (UP 10 PERCENT) AND LABOR (DOWN 12 PERCENT IN AGRICULTURE, UP 14 PERCENT IN INDUSTRY)?

3. UNLESS POST HAS SERIOUS OBJECTION, WE WOULD PREFER TO USE DOLS 1.1 MILLION TOTAL US AID FIGURE DRAWN FROM OLD PROFILE AS WELL AS YOUR 1976 FIGURE OF US DOLS 48,000.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR DRAFT REVISION OF "POLITICAL CONDITIONS" SECTION BY CABLE AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. DEPARTMENT WILL COMPILE LIST OF PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM CABLE REPORTING ON NEW CABINET.
ROBINSON

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